

Delegation of Authority to Board of Nursing RN Discipline Staff

The Board of Nursing delegates to professional discipline staff the authority to offer prehearing consent orders (PHCO's) in the following circumstances:

- Indefinite suspension for non-compliance with order of probation.
- Termination of probation if all terms and conditions met.
- (Non) Compliance case of licensee on probation who has let license lapse (not working), may be closed undetermined. Board of Nursing data base would be flagged so if the license is being made current, staff would then offer PHCO with same terms as initial probation orders.
- Reinstatement applicant – applicant does not reveal prior criminal conviction (Board of Nursing is aware of conviction on another application, or learns of conviction from another source), offer PHCO to reprimand and approve for licensure (with the exception of cases resulting in mandatory suspension).
- Disciplinary/HPIP case – no prior Board history, no prior stay granted, compliant with HPIP contract and no issues other than impairment, offer PHCO to take no action contingent upon HPIP compliance (No IFC).
- Report received from HPIP committee – stay of disciplinary action vacated (but individual not dismissed from HPIP) and licensee now fully compliant with contract. Offer PHCO – take no action contingent upon continued compliance with HPIP. Include in findings of fact in order that stay was vacated.
- Cases involving HPIP participant that was ordered into program, but now unable to participate due to medical reasons and HPIP committee dismisses or accepts individuals resignation; offer PHCO to accept voluntary surrender for indefinite suspension.

- During any type of case investigated, licensee indicates to the investigator the desire to surrender, or individual mails in license during course of the investigation; offer PHCO to accept voluntary surrender for indefinite suspension.
- Cases resulting from mandatory/self reports of admission to hospital for mental health issues where there are no practice issues, staff are authorized to either: offer CCA with terms (i.e. quarterly reports from treating provider); close undetermined; or offer PHCO to take no action contingent upon entry into or remain in compliance with HPIP.
- Abandonment of patients by CNAs in a nursing home or other healthcare facility and where this is the only alleged issue. PHCO for reprimanded.
- HPIP non-compliance or dismissal after the case has been continuing generally or no action taken contingent upon compliance. PHCO for indefinite suspension
- One time failure to provide acceptable standard of care. PHCO reprimand
- Allegations of verbal/physical abuse with mitigating circumstances. PHCO reprimand for unprofessional conduct
- Action taken by another state board of nursing. PHCO with similar action or terms and conditions e.g. probation, HPIP
- Initial and reinstatement applicants
 1. PHCO with sanction or terms consistent with another state
 2. PHCO to reinstate and comply with HPIP when a lapsed licensee was under prior order to be in HPIP
 3. Applicants whose only cause for denial related to impairment issues. PHCO requiring HPIP participation
 4. Reinstatement with same terms of probation for a probationer who allowed their license to lapse

- Authority to modify probation orders
- Authority to issue order of successful completion of HPIP/terms & issue unrestricted license following notification by HPIP committee, when previous order of take no action contingent upon HPIP.
- Unlicensed Practice – PHCO monetary penalty ranging \$100 – 500; include reprimand if > one year (see Guidance Document # 90-38)

Confidential Consent Agreements – Staff authorized to offer CCA’s in the following circumstances:

- Single medication error with no patient harm
- Unintentional falsification of employment application
- Unintentional falsification of initial licensure and/or reinstatement application (regarding past action, criminal convictions), where applicant misunderstood question and believed the Board already knew
- Standard of care violation “with little or no injury”
- Standard of care violation that may be in part due to systems issues
- Technical probation violations (i.e., late reports, etc.)
- Pre-employment positive drug screen without evidence it has affected practice
- Possible impairment without evidence that it has affected practice (i.e. coming to work with alcohol on breath & sent home; hospitalized for psychiatric or substance abuse treatment)
- CE violations for CMT’s and LNPs (see also Guidance Document # 90-10 for LNPs)
- A single misdemeanor conviction involving moral turpitude, with no other issues (ex. Worthless check; shoplifting)

- Single incident of exceeding scope of practice – accepting assignment or agreeing to do a task without adequate training obtained or competency maintained and no patient harm
- Inappropriate verbal response that does not rise to the level of verbal abuse (i.e., “shut up”)
- Single boundary violation with no patient harm (i.e., getting involved with patient finances) and not resulting in criminal conviction
- HPIP participant not eligible for a stay, but with minimal practice issues
- Vague “rough handling” where there is no patient harm & does not rise to the level of abuse
- Unintentional/inadvertent Practice Agreement violations for LNP’s with Prescriptive Authority

Addendum: Probable Cause Review and Case Closure – Effective 7-17-07

Effective 7-17-07, the Board of Nursing delegates to professional discipline staff the authority to close cases for insufficient evidence of a violation of law or regulation, or not rising to the level of disciplinary action by the Board. The Board further delegates professional discipline staff the authority to close cases undetermined for reconsideration when another similar complaint is received, or when the lapsed/suspended/revoked licensee applies to reinstate or late renew.

Revised on date: _____

Replaces Guidance Documents 90-33, 90-35, 90-39, 90-47, 90-48, 90-49, 90-50, 90-51

Board action 5/15/07 & 7/17/07